

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 15 and cancel claims 2 and 16 without prejudice as follows. In accordance with the Revised Format of Amendments, the status of all of the claims is set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) A node for routing data on a transmission network, the transmission network comprising one or more network paths, the node comprising data processing layers associated with the one or more network paths, the data processing layers comprising first, second, and third layers, said second layer being between said first layer and said third layer in said layering and said first layer comprising at least Virtual Tributary level (VT), the node performing a cut-through transmission operation[[,]] wherein comprising:

mapping a packet is mapped received from the network in said first layer;

said first layer judging whether the packet is to be dropped at said node or to be hopped to a next node;

said first layer transmitting the packet to said third layer which performs routing operations through said second layer when said first layer judges that the packet is to be dropped at said node; and

said first or second layer transmitting the packet to said next node when said first layer judges that the packet is to be hopped, where the packet is transmitted without terminating the first layer.

2. (Canceled) .

3-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A transmission method carried out in a node for routing data on a transmission network, the transmission network comprising one or more network paths, the node comprising data processing layers associated with the one or more network paths, the data processing layers comprising first, second, and third layers, said second layer being between said first layer and said third layer in said layering and said first layer comprising at least Virtual Tributary level (VT), the node performing a cut-through transmission operation, comprising the steps of:

judging, in said first layer where a packet is mapped, whether said packet is to be dropped at said node or to be hopped to a next node; and

transmitting in said first layer the packet to said third layer which performs routing operations through said second layer when said first layer judges that the packet is to be dropped at said node; and

said first or second layer transmitting the packet to said next node when said first layer judges that the packet is to be hopped, where the packet is transmitted without terminating the first layer.

16. (Canceled)

17-28. (Canceled)